Security lapses at Indira Gandhi International Airport

*86. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the Press report in the Tribune, dated the 26th May, 1997, under the caption "Security lapses continue at Indira Gandhi Internation Airport";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to improve the security lapses at the Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. No specific instance of security lapse has been indicated in the news-item.

(c) Tightening of security arrangements is a continuous process. Security arrangement are constantly reviewed to avoid any lapses in the security cover of the airport.

Proposal for Increase in area under poppy Cultivation

*87. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India as the sole supplier of licit opium in the world is caming under increasing pressure from the Internation Narcotics Control Board to increase its area under poppy cultivation and build up adequate stocks to provide for future eventualities; and

(b) if so, the reacion of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir, There is no such pressure from the International Narcotics Control Board. The area under poppy cultivation during any crop year is fixed taking into account the global demand for opium. The International Narcotics Control Board, as the concerned U.N. Agency monitors the global demand and supply of opiates and has always emphasized, India's important role as the sole producer and supplier of licit opium.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Registration of Indian Brand names of Food Items in other Countries

*88. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian brand names of certain food items particularly rice and tea are being registered/patented in other countries;

(b) if so, the implications thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to protect the traditional names of Indian products from such practices abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Brand names of certain packaged food items are registered by certain exporters on their own Volition in countries to which their brands are exported.

(b) The benefits of registration of brand names in other countries inter-alia include protection against infringement of such brand names by others in the countries where such brand names are registered and building of brand loyalty amongst consumers.

(c) and (d) Under Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Right, under the Uruguay Round, Member Countries are obliged to provide the legal means to interested parties to prevent the use of any means in the designation or prevention of a good that indicates or suggests that good in question originates in a geographical area other than the true place of origin in a manner which misleads the public as to the geographical origin of the product. Such a protection is available for products which are protected in their country of origin. In India, separate legislation for protection of geographical indications is being considered.

Income Tax dues of Film stars in Tamil Nadu

*89. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister